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Title: Need to withdraw the expert duty on EI Leather.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Madam, in Tamil Nadu, particularly from Dindigul and Trichy, EI leather and vegetable-tanned leather were being exported earlier. The Government earned more revenue out of that. Now, the Government is allowing more imports of raw-leather, semi-finished leather, EI leather and vegetable-tanned leather from the foreign countries. Big players are importing that leather. The Government has banned the export of EI leather. So, the big players are not buying EI and the vegetable-tanned leather from Trichy as well as Dindigul. The main labours in this EI tannery are women, Muslims, *dalit* people and the backward community people. These people are suffering a lot. Earlier, in Dindigul, there were about 90 industries. Now, it is only 45 industries which are working there.[R68]

Earlier in Trichy, there were about 92 units, but only 40 are working now. All the other units are at the verge of closure. So, I would request the Government to waive the export duty imposed on EI leather so as to facilitate these small units. Otherwise, the Government should levy import duty on raw leather, semi-finished leather and EI leather imported by big players. Now the big players are doing mischievous things by grabbing all the concessions by exporting EI leather through backdoor method. The small traders cannot do that.

Madam, at present EI leather and vegetable tanned leather are being made only in Dindigul and Trichy districts of Tamil Nadu in the whole of India. So, in order to facilitate this industry, I would request the Government to withdraw the export duty imposed on EI leather and levy import duty on raw leather, EI leather and semi-finished leather which are being imported by the big players.